

The Institution of Engineers, Australia; Sydney Division
Engineering Heritage Committee

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

INTERVIEWEE : Keith Murray

TAPE NUMBERS :

IEA SYD: FJ 17

INTERVIEWER : Frank Jackson

IEA SYD: FJ 18

INTERVIEW DATE : 6 June 2002

NUMBER OF TAPES : 2

RESTRICTION ON USE : None

INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

This interview took place at Watsons Bay on 6 June 2002.

This log was prepared using a Sanyo TRC 8080 Memo - Scriber

This interview is part of the Oral History Project of the Engineering Heritage Committee of the Sydney Division the Institution of Engineers, Australia.

Tape Log

Tape : IEA SYD : FJ 17 , Side A		
COUNT	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
1	Intro Born Hurlstone Park, NSW 16 March 1918	Keith McCallum Murray
7	Earliest recollections – engineering and marine	Mort's Dock
14	Father's and mother's details; no siblings	Roy McCallum Murray Ethel (nee Nesbitt)
25	Early childhood visits to Mort's Dock. Outings on steam launches – describes steam reciprocating engines on launches	
41	Primary schooling. Favourites mathematics, geometry and drawing	Canterbury Primary School
67	Teacher who made special impression – (with the cane)	Bates (teacher)
73	High schooling (started before 11 th birthday)	Sydney Technical High School Albion Street, Paddington Bexley
90	Special teachers	McCurley (sports master)
99	Fellow pupils	Harry Freeman
	Favoured subjects – woodwork, metalwork, drawing & mathematics	
115	Leaving Certificate – passed before 16 th birthday!	
120	Apprenticeship age limits – had to be finished by age 21	
130	Apprenticeship (at Mort's Dock) First job – toolroom Working hours – 44 hours per week (no time off to attend classes)	Boiler stays Pivot pins
147	Studies – no Trades course - straight into Diploma Found it hard going, 3 nights a week. Living at Hurlstone Park	Hurlstone Park
163	Sporting activities – swimming & tennis	Sydney Amateur Swimming Club
170	Talks about doing the Diploma course	
178	Mort's Dock strike – resentment by tradesmen who had been on strike.	Journeyman Marker-off
210	Describes work of marker-off in process of making of castings for replacement parts	
228	Working in Drawing Office, and with Naval Architect	Captain Cook 3 Naval Architecture
	Workmates in drawing office	McKinnon
260	End of apprenticeship and graduation with Diploma Ongoing work with Mort's Dock.	
280	Thoughts of going to sea.(uncle was a marine engineer)	Roy Liddell Burns Philp
295	Not allowed to go to sea - outbreak of War kept him at Mort's Dock Conversion of trawlers to minesweepers	minesweepers
313	War related activities Conversion of 3 trawlers, Conversion of armed merchant	'Arawa'

	cruisers	'Westralia'
325	Details of 'Westralia' conversion to armed merchantman Under direction of overseer from Navy	'Westralia' Garden Island
385	End of Side A	

Tape : IEA SYD : FJ 17 , Side B		
COUNT	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
1	Intro	
4	Continues description of 'Westralia' conversion - problems	Commander Mackie Captain Rosenthal
16	Construction of Corvettes. Acted as engineer in charge when incumbent became ill, later died. -	Hector Kidd
27	Describes work of engineer in charge	
36	Materials – priority of supply Quality of tradesmen.	
43	Corvettes – 14 constructed in 2 years – 'not a bad record'	
47	Industrial problems – none after Russia joined Allied side Communists in workforce	Russia
58	Construction of 4 frigates – delays between programmes	
73	Size of workforce – 500 to 600 Little turnover of workers.	
82	Other ship repair & construction works in Harbour	Cockatoo degaussing
90	Conversion of trawlers – re-use of existing facilities	'pop gun'
97	Repair work up until August 1945 – British fleet	'Indefatigable' air craft carrier
113	Re-conversion of 'Monowai' from landing ship to passenger ship to near-new condition (to replace 'Awatea') After 3 tugs for army, and fuel lighters	'Monowai' 'Awatea' Union Steamship Co
137	Offered position by Union Steamship Co – May 1949 Resigned from Mort's Dock	T. H. Phelps (Managing Director of Mort's Dock)
150	Describes position with Union Steamship - Travelling Repair Superintendent	
168	Marriage – 1945 One child, daughter born 1947	
180	Living in New Zealand – inclement weather in Wellington - windy	Wellington
188	Describes posting to Vancouver for 12 months for conversion of 'Aorangi'	'Aorangi' Vancouver
216	Conversion of 'Aorangi' –Canadian Australasian Line (formed to operate ship) War history of 'Aorangi'	Aorangi Canadian Australasian Line
235	Describes duties in Vancouver – senior technical person	
250	Experience of working as customer of shipyard	
273	Return to Wellington	
278	Describes work of marine surveyor Problems of corrosion and marine growths	
309	Emergency repairs – Repairs following collision between 'Waiteata' and 'Taranaki' – separating the two ships Cause of collision	'Waiteata' 'Taranaki'
348	End of Side B	

Tape : IEA SYD : FJ 18 , Side A		
COUNT	SUBJECT	NAMES & KEYWORDS
1	Intro	
4	Return to Australia – due to ill-health of wife Transferred to Sydney by Union Steamship, Describes duties as Repair Superintendent	
18	New cargo ships – design of small cargo containers Special gear for lifting containers	Cargo containers
	New ship designs – both LOLO (Load on / Load off – with cranes) and RORO (Roll on / roll off) cargoes Built at Whyalla	LOLO RORO Whyalla
60	Efficiency improvements from new designs	
78	Derricks and cranes – differences and operation	
91	Improvements in ship speeds – benefits of small increases	Seaway King Seaway Queen 'jumbo-ised'
105	Prospects of achieving 'world's best practice' Were achieving it with the two LOLO/RORO ships – describes how Present day – operations improving	
122	Conversion of sulphuric acid carrier – acid for fertiliser manufacturer – special tanks fitted into ship to carry acid – removable to carry ore concentrates. Unlined steel tanks – not affected by corrosion by acid.	
159	Collision of 'Karoo' Temporary repairs in Melbourne, then brought to Newcastle for repairs (State Dockyard)	'Karoo' (?) Corsair Rock Newcastle State Dockyard
192	Roll-on Roll-off ships for trans -Tasman run – built in Scotland – Caledon Shipyard, Dundee	'Mahina' 'Marana' Caledon Shipyard Dundee Cosley - Pielstick
221	1972 – resigned after Union Steamship sold to TNT Moved to Howard Smith as Workshop Superintendent, Based at Birchgrove	TNT P & O Howard Smith Birchgrove Kurnell
240	1978 – moved to P & O, Fiji Interesting experience -	
265	Experiences in flying across Pacific – Bristol Britannia	Bristol Britannia
	1980 – end of contract – retirement.	
293	Appointed Secretary of A & NZ Division of Institute of Marine Engineers Qualifications for membership	Institute of Marine Engineers
310	Not qualified as 'sea-going; marine engineer	
318	Post – retirement consulting – survey work after accidents, mainly for insurance claims, and cathodic protection checks.	
340	Wind-up	
362	End of Side A; End of interview	